



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VA North Texas Health Care System Fully Re-Opens Mental Health Inpatient Unit

Dallas – VA North Texas Health Care System will reopen its Mental Health Inpatient Unit this week and resume full operations after recently completing dramatic renovations. The newly renovated mental health unit is now a state-of-the-art psychiatric inpatient unit that will rival any mental health inpatient unit in the country.

The Mental Health Inpatient Unit was temporarily closed in April 2008 to begin renovations after environment of care concerns were identified. The first phase of the renovations was completed in May 2008 and limited admissions began at that time.

Numerous environmental, organizational and programmatic improvements have been accomplished through the renovations. Measures were put into place to eliminate patient safety risks while creating a better healing environment. Specifically, innovative modifications were made to the unit to reduce the risk of patients harming themselves or others. Nursing station views have been improved and additional security monitors are in place. The clinical staffing levels have been bolstered as well including adding suicide prevention coordinators.

The behavioral health program at VA North Texas was reviewed by The Joint Commission in June 2008, and no recommendations regarding patient care were cited.

“We must continue vigilant efforts to review and review again our mental health program to provide a safe environment with trained professionals to protect our patients, some times from themselves,” Mr. Dalpiaz said

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